

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 19, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 12

Introduced by Senator Alarcon

February 21, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12—Relative to the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 12, as amended, Alarcon. Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California. The joint committee would have among its duties the development of a “Master Plan to End Poverty in California,” and to report to the Legislature on the state of poverty in California. The measure would provide for the joint committee’s continued existence until December 31, 2005.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Poverty is detrimental to the health, welfare, and
2 safety of Californians; and

3 WHEREAS, Poverty affects all communities, in particular
4 women, children, seniors, disabled, working families,
5 immigrants, and the homeless; and

6 WHEREAS, Poverty affects the health and economic
7 well-being of communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Safety net programs, either private or public, are
9 continually threatened by the scarcity of resources, as well as by
10 the increasing cost of living throughout the state; and

1 WHEREAS, The 2000 Census reports that 14 percent of
2 Californians live at or below the federal poverty level; and

3 WHEREAS, The current 2002 federal poverty level is
4 described as a family unit of one with an income of eight thousand
5 eight hundred sixty dollars (\$8,860), a family unit of two with an
6 income of eleven thousand nine hundred forty dollars (\$11,940),
7 a family unit of three with an income of fifteen thousand twenty
8 dollars (\$15,020), and a family unit of four with an income of
9 eighteen thousand one hundred dollars (\$18,100); and

10 WHEREAS, The current formula to determine the federal
11 poverty level underestimates the actual cost of living in poverty
12 because that formula measures only food consumption and not
13 other basic needs, such as housing, health care, transportation,
14 utilities, and child care; and

15 WHEREAS, California has the second highest poverty rate
16 when measuring people living at 125 percent of the federal poverty
17 level; and

18 WHEREAS, California is losing billions of dollars in revenue
19 by not closing the income gap between the haves and have-nots;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Reducing poverty, and reducing the income gap,
22 will greatly benefit the economic and social infrastructure of
23 California; and

24 WHEREAS, Poverty is not inevitable in California if wise
25 economic and social programs are established; and

26 WHEREAS, Californians challenged the state to end poverty in
27 the 1930's through the EPIC (Ending Poverty In California)
28 movement; and

29 WHEREAS, The alarming statistics on income levels
30 demonstrate that poverty has not been eradicated in this state, and
31 there is a moral imperative to strive to accomplish that goal; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Joint Committee to Develop a Master
35 Plan to End Poverty in California, composed of 7 Members of the
36 Senate, to be appointed by the Senate ~~Rules Committee~~
37 *Committee on Rules*, and 7 Members of the Assembly, to be
38 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, is hereby established;
39 and be it further

1 *RESOLVED, That the Joint Committee shall be under the*
2 *direction of a Senate chair and an Assembly chair, appointed by the*
3 *Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly,*
4 *respectively; and be it further*

5 *Resolved, That the joint committee develop a “Master Plan to*
6 *End Poverty in California” to provide solutions to ending poverty;*
7 *and be it further*

8 *Resolved, That the joint committee report to the Legislature on*
9 *the state of poverty in California based upon demographic data*
10 *from the most recent federal census within four years of the release*
11 *of that demographic data; and be it further*

12 *Resolved, That the joint committee and its members shall have*
13 *and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon*
14 *investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of*
15 *the Senate and Assembly as they are adopted and amended from*
16 *time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and made*
17 *applicable to this committee and its members; and be it further*

18 *Resolved, That the Senate Committee on Rules may make*
19 *money available from the Senate Operating Fund, as it deems*
20 *necessary, for the to share expenses of the joint committee Joint*
21 *Committee and its members. Any expenditure of money shall be*
22 *made in compliance with policies set forth by the Senate*
23 *Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the approval of the*
24 *Senate Committee on Rules; and be it further*

25 *RESOLVED, That the Assembly Committee on Rules may make*
26 *money available from the Assembly Operating Fund, as it deems*
27 *necessary, to share expenses of the Joint Committee and its*
28 *members. Any expenditure of money shall be made in compliance*
29 *with policies set forth by the Assembly Committee on Rules and*
30 *shall be subject to the approval of the Assembly Committee on*
31 *Rules; and be it further*

32 *Resolved, That the joint committee continue in existence until*
33 *December 31, 2005.*